



# County of Los Angeles **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

June 13, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

## **STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

### **Pursuit of County Position on Legislation**

**AB 1716 (Human Services Committee)**, as amended June 11, 2003, would reinstate a mechanism temporarily used during the 1990's to restore base realignment funding for the caseload-driven portion of the Social Services Account in any year following a year in which revenues are not sufficient to fully fund the base, resulting in a permanent reduction in the base. Programs in the caseload sub-account include IHSS, Adoption Assistance, Foster Care, CalWORKs and California Children's Services. AB 1716 would allow for a one-time supplement of the base and would expire after the base is restored. Additionally, a workgroup consisting of various stakeholders and legislative committees is required to provide a report to the Legislature regarding realignment funding issues by April 1, 2004.

In 1991-92 sales tax revenues declined, resulting in a shortfall in the base account for caseload-driven social services. In response, the Legislature approved SB 463 to provide that in the event of such a shortfall, revenue growth in subsequent years would first be used to restore the base account for realigned caseload-driven social services programs so that the shortfall was not carried over into future years. SB 463 was enacted for a limited time and no longer applies.

As a result of the current recession, sales tax revenues last year declined resulting in a base shortfall in the Social Service Trust Fund of \$64 million. Without legislative action, this shortfall would become permanent. AB 1716 would reinstate the SB 463

mechanism to restore the base when revenues subsequently increase, giving priority to the case-load driven portion of the Social Services Account.

The Department of Mental Health has expressed concerns about AB 1716 because it only addresses shortfalls in the Social Service Base Account and does not deal with the broader problem that realignment funding is not keeping pace with case-load growth, especially in non-entitlement programs such as mental health. While not recommending opposition to AB 1716, the department is concerned about the rapid growth in IHSS which is diverting funding from other programs. On the other hand, the Departments of Children and Family Services and Public Social Services recommend that the County support AB 1716, and we concur. Without AB 1716, the current shortfall in the Social Services Base Account would be permanent and carried into the future. Support for AB 1716 is consistent with existing policy to ensure realigned revenues cover the cost of the programs shifted in current and future years. **Therefore, our Sacramento advocates will support AB 1716.**

This measure is sponsored by the California State Association of Counties and supported by: the County Welfare Directors Association, California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS, Sacramento County, SEIU, United Domestic Workers, and California Alliance of Child and Family Services. It is opposed by various mental health organizations, including: California Mental Health Planning Council, California Council of Community Mental Health Agencies, Mental Health Association in California, California Psychiatric Association, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-California, and California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies. AB 1716 passed the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on a vote of 7 to 1 and is currently on the Senate Floor awaiting a vote.

#### **Status of County-Interest Legislation**

**County-sponsored AB 44 (Pacheco)**, which addresses technical issues regarding the notification of various parties of juvenile court proceedings to determine, review, revise, or terminate the status of a child as a dependent child of the court, passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 10, 2003, and now proceeds to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**County-opposed, unless amended, AB 1051 (Goldberg)**, which would change the way utilities charge users for capital improvements, was amended in the Senate Committee on Local Government on June 10, 2003. The attorney handling the County's lawsuit against Los Angeles City's Department of Water and Power, reports that the amendment corrects some errors and clarifies the intent, but does not make any substantive change to the bill. AB 1051 was re-referred to the Committee on Local Government, where it is scheduled for hearing on June 18, 2003.

**County-supported AB 1405 (Wolk and Harman)**, which would establish a State policy to endorse local, collaborative watershed partnerships, was amended on June 11, 2003, adding the word "voluntary" in front of local, collaborative watershed partnerships. The bill has been re-referred to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality, where it will be heard on June 23, 2003.

**County-sponsored AB 1469 (Negrete-McLeod)**, which would authorize the court to grant a continuance not to exceed ten days if a report is not provided to the parties within a reasonable time before the dependency hearing, passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 10, 2003, and now proceeds to the Senate Floor.

**County-supported AB 1738 (Health Committee)**, passed the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on its Consent Calendar on June 11, 2003. Among other provisions, AB 1738 lowers the temperature for holding hot foods from 140 degrees Fahrenheit to 135 degrees Fahrenheit. The bill proceeds to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**County-supported, if amended, SB 196 (Kuehl)**, which would change the way two members of the Regional Water Quality Control Board are selected, allowing for a county supervisor and a mayor or city council member to be appointed, was assigned to the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife. July 1, 2003 has been set as the first hearing date.

We will continue to keep you informed.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:DRS:EW:ib

#### Attachment

c:     Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
       County Counsel  
       Local 660  
       All Department Heads  
       Legislative Strategist  
       Coalition of County Unions  
       California Contract Cities Association  
       Independent Cities Association  
       League of California Cities  
       City Managers Associations